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Letter dated 15 January 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the first anniversary of the inauguration of President Gutierrez of Ecuador, issued on 14 January 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Richard **Ryan**
Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 15 January 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the first anniversary of the inauguration of President Gutierrez of Ecuador, issued on 14 January 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

On the occasion of the first anniversary of the inauguration of President Gutierrez, the European Union reaffirms its support for his democratically elected Government, for the democratic institutions of Ecuador and for the people of Ecuador who freely expressed their desire for democratic change and political reform in the elections held in November 2002.

Stressing the importance of full respect for the fundamental values of democracy, freedom and justice, the European Union underlines that only the rule of law and good governance can provide a solid basis for political stability, social cohesion and economic development, which will in turn create the most advantageous conditions for further European cooperation and direct investment.

The European Union encourages the continuation of the economic policies implemented by the Government of Ecuador throughout these past 12 months. In this regard, the European Union attaches particular importance to the fight against poverty and corruption.

In the context of its friendship and cooperation with Ecuador, the European Union underlines the importance of a comprehensive national dialogue, which would help to strengthen the democratic institutions of the State and to establish a more effective presence of the State, and equitable delivery of public services, throughout the national territory. National dialogue would also help to achieve sound and effective reforms as well as political and economic stability, which would contribute to growing national wealth, social cohesion and improved living standards for all citizens.

The European Union stands ready to continue to support the implementation of these goals, which should contribute to the strengthening of democracy in Ecuador.

The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.